

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, please add the following new paragraphs before paragraph [0001]:

[0000.2] CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0000.4] This application is a 35 USC 371 application of PCT/DE 03/003842  
filed on November 20, 2003.

[0000.6] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0000.8] Field of the Invention

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0001]:

[0001.5] Description of the Prior Art

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] ~~Such fuel~~ **Fuel** filters **of the type with which this invention is concerned** are used, among other places, in diesel engines for filtering out contaminants contained in diesel fuel and for separating water from the diesel fuel, in order to avoid problems and damage caused thereby, such as contamination or corrosion in the fuel system or poorer combustion in the engine.

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] One problem of ~~such~~ **the known** fuel filters is carrying the water out of the sump, since after being separated out of the fuel, the water as a rule contains contaminants and therefore must not be given off to the environment without further treatment.

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] ~~From US Patent 4,264,442[[,]]~~ **discloses** a fuel filter ~~of the type defined at the outset~~  
~~is known. The fuel filter has~~ **having** a chamber in which there is a cage[[.]] ~~The cage defines~~  
**defining** a fuel inlet chamber[[,]] which communicates with the fuel inlet, and a fuel outlet

chamber[[,]] ~~which is~~ located diametrically opposite the fuel inlet chamber and [[is]] separated from it by a partition, and which communicates with the fuel outlet. The fuel entering the fuel filter via the fuel inlet passes through the fuel inlet chamber, emerges from it via a porous wall into the chamber, circles the cage, then on the opposite side of the cage, via an equally porous wall, it enters the fuel outlet chamber, and from there, via the fuel outlet, it flows out of the fuel filter, as cleaned fuel. The bottom of the chamber outside the cage acts as a sump for water that has been separated out in the filtration. On the bottom of the sump there is a valve, which is controlled with the aid of a water level sensor located in the sump and with which a water outlet, communicating with a line, can be selectively opened and closed. If via the sensor it is ascertained that a certain quantity of water has accumulated in the sump, then the valve is opened, via a negative pressure generated at the water outlet, and a substantial portion of the water is exhausted from the sump by suction and carried away to a downstream chamber via the line.

Page 3, please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0007]:

[0007.5] OBJECTS AND ADVANTAGES OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] ~~By comparison, it~~ **It** is the object of the present invention to make a fuel filter available that does not have the disadvantages discussed above, and in particular in terms of carrying away water can be operated essentially independently of other engine parts and is maintenance-free. The fuel filter should also be constructed simply and thus be favorable in terms of its manufacture.

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] Many advantages are thus attained, compared to the **known** fuel filter systems described above. First, manually emptying or replacing filled water chambers is unnecessary, which simplifies maintenance of the fuel supply system. At the same time, a complicated line arrangement for connecting the water outlet to the air intake and exhaust system can be dispensed with. In contrast, the invention makes disposal of the separated-out water possible in a way that is independent of other engine parts. As a result, both maintenance costs and production and assembly costs for a fuel system that requires a fuel filter of the type defined at the outset can be reduced substantially.

Page 9, please add the following **new** paragraph after paragraph [0027]:

[0027.5] BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] The invention is described in further detail below, **with reference to the** ~~in terms of a plurality of drawings, **in which:** that illustrate the principle of preferred embodiments of the invention;~~

Please delete paragraph [0029].

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

[0030] Fig. 1 ~~[[,]]~~ **the principle is a schematic view, in section,** of a preferred exemplary embodiment ~~in a simplified illustration in cross section **of a fuel filter according to the invention;**~~

Page 10, please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0034]:

[0034.5] DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following amended paragraph:

[0035] In Fig. 1, a fuel filter is shown schematically, with a housing 1 on whose upper side wall a fuel inlet 2 and a fuel outlet 3 are provided on diametrically opposite sides. It is quite familiar to one skilled in the art how a filter for filtering the fuel can be located in a fuel filter housing, and what water separator means should be provided. Illustrating the location of the filter in the fuel filter housing and illustrating the means for separating water from the fuel have therefore been dispensed with, for the sake of simplification. The lower region of the housing 1 serves as a sump 4 for water that is precipitated out in the filtration of the fuel. A water outlet 5 with a controllable closure is provided on the bottom of the sump 4. The ~~closure~~ water outlet is controlled via a control unit 6 as a function of the fill level signals of an upper water level sensor 7 and a lower water level sensor 8. A vertical line 9 is disposed on the underside of the closure.

Page 11, please replace paragraph [0036] with the following amended paragraph:

[0036] The line 9 ends in a container 11, located below the housing 1, that is open toward the top. An absorbent material 12 for absorbing water carried away from the sump ~~[[3]]~~ 4 is located in the interior of the container and extends horizontally over the entire internal cavity of the container 11. The absorbent material may for instance at least partly comprise a sponge, an absorbent paper, or a nonwoven fabric.

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

[0037] The water outlet, or closure, in a simple version, may be embodied as a valve, if the pressure on the bottom of the sump is greater than the ambient pressure, so that the water can simply run out of the sump when the valve is open. This is the case in particular whenever the fuel filter is located downstream, in the fuel flow direction, of a fuel pump. If the pressure on the bottom of the sump is less than the ambient pressure, then there must be a pump at the closure [[4]] 5, so that the water can be pumped out of the sump 4 counter to the pressure difference.

Page 16, please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0047]:

[0048] The foregoing relates to preferred exemplary embodiment of the invention, it being understood that other variants and embodiments thereof are possible within the spirit and scope of the invention, the latter being defined by the appended claims.